

## Wales News April 2022



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#### **Dear All**

Welcome to the Wales Newsletter. Spring brings an exciting flurry of newly emerged butterflies and moths - read a roundup on page 4.

Brimstone, Ffos Las: Maggie James

The joy of seeing Brimstone butterflies in Spring was the inspiration for an article in Butterfly Magazine 'Be More Brimstone', about how vital it is for us to find some joy in the midst of the gloom that it's easy to feel in the face of the destruction of so much of our wildlife.

Of course we must also take action and this edition features ways we can all take part, contributing to biological records, planting for pollinators and allowing lawns and verges to bloom with wild flowers. The BC team in Wales is working hard, with volunteers and collaborating with other organisations, to recover species like the High Brown Fritillary and to connect people to nature.

We hope you'll enjoy reading the newsletter, we'd love to hear any comments via the Wales staff team email.

Best regards,

The Butterfly Conservation Wales Team

### Work with us!

**Exciting job opportunity for an experienced Conservation Officer,** covering South Wales.

12-month contract, closing date 9th May.

**Conservation Officer Wales Job Description** 

Please read the full information on our **Jobs page** and scroll down right down for full details.



We're looking for an experienced person who wants a new and exciting opportunity to move forward Butterfly Conservation's new Saving Butterflies and Moths 2021-2026 Strategy in Wales.

## **Natur am Byth!**

Butterfly Conservation is proud to be a core partner in Natur am Byth!, taking the lead in the conservation efforts for the High Brown Fritillary – the UK's most endangered butterfly.

The High Brown Fritillary has declined 96% in its distribution and in Wales only a single colony remains. The species is now restricted to the Old Castle Down and Cwm Alun area in the Vale of Glamorgan, leaving it highly vulnerable to extinction.

Natur am Byth! is Wales' flagship Green Recovery project, uniting nine environmental charities with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deliver the country's largest heritage and outreach programme to save species from extinction and reconnect people to nature.

Our Natur am Byth! team in the Vale of Glamorgan is Dot Williams and Richard Smith.

Part of the project is to work with the Commoners on grazing and they visited Fairwood on Gower to find out about no-fence

grazing. The team has also visited many schools and community events to involve local people with protecting this special butterfly.





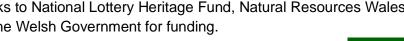
Thanks to National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government for funding.

Read more here



High Brown Fritillary pair Cwm Alun 2020 Paul Dunn

Group of Vale Commoners' visiting Fairwood Common 2022 Dot Williams



## Planting for Butterflies, Moths, Bees .....

.... and other insects of course! Connect with nature, be inspired and help moths and butterflies thrive. A wealth of ideas for planting in gardens, pots and parks for pollinators:

- Our leaflet **Gardening for Butterflies and Moths**
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership's Bee Friendly Initiative has lots of guides including new bilingual posters on what to plant for your Balcony or Yard, in your Garden and in Community Spaces
- The Botanic Garden of Wales' bilingual Pollinating Plants booklet helps you choose plants to attract pollinating insects, based on their research.
- Meet Butterfly Conservation's Secret Gardener and explore their blog
- On our main web pages Alan Titchmarsh gives tips on planting Pit Stops for Pollinators.



# Introducing our Species Champions

The <u>Species Champions</u> project, set up here by <u>Wales Environment Link (WEL)</u> connects Members of the Sennedd (MS) to threatened species found in their constituency, so they can speak up for them in the Senedd and beyond.



A big thank you to the MS's who have agreed to champion these four species of butterfly and moth, all threatened by habitat loss and change:



Jane Hutt is our Species Champion for the High Brown Fritillary. She's the Labour MS for the Vale of Glamorgan.

**High Brown Fritillary Species Briefing** 



Mabon ap Gwynfor is our Species Champion for the Welsh Clearwing moth. He's the Plaid Cymru MS for Dwyfor Meirionnydd.

**Welsh Clearwing Species Briefing** 



Russell George is our Species Champion for the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. He's the Conservative MS for Montgomeryshire.

Pearl-bordered Fritillary Species Briefing



Mike Hedges is our Species Champion for the Small Blue Butterfly. He's the Labour MS for Swansea East.

**Small Blue Species Briefing.** 

Photos from the top: MSs 2021\_WEL; High Brown Fritillary; Welsh Clearwing; Pearl-bordered Fritillary; Small Blue

Find out more

### It's No Mow May - pass it on!

Here are the links to share if you'd like to spread the word before the mowers and strimmers get whirring in earnest!

Plantlife's No Mow May campaign

Butterfly Conservation's guide to creating butterfly-friendly urban grassland

**Building Sites for Butterflies** 

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Read more about managing urban grassland

## What's flying now?

#### Look out for:

**Pearl-bordered Fritillaries** (*right*) have been seen at several sites including our **Eyarth Rocks** Reserve near Ruthin and the National Trust's **Cwm Soden** in Pembrokeshire.

They've also been reported in Ceredigion and Montgomeryshire (see Frits About report below).

**Marsh Fritillary** larvae have been reported basking at some sites in South Wales



A skip through Facebook groups for the past week or so found these sightings, many of which are early:

- At Merthyr Mawr near Bridgend on 22<sup>nd</sup> April: <u>Grizzled Skipper</u>, Green-veined White, <u>Emperor Moth</u>, <u>Ruby tiger moth</u>, Mint moth (24th)
- At <u>Kenfig NNR</u>: Small Blue, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Peacock, Common Blue, Brown Argus,
   Wall and Small Copper
- At <u>Llanymyech</u> Rocks: Brimstone, Orange-tip, Small Copper, Grizzled and <u>Dingy Skipper</u>, Holly Blue, <u>Green Hairstreak</u>, Speckled Wood and Small Whites
- Anania funebris has been seen at Y Graig, Llantrisant

#### Join in!

These reports were mostly found on <u>Butterfly Conservation North Wales Forum</u> and <u>Butterfly Conservation</u> <u>South Wales Forum</u>. Anyone interested in butterflies and moths can apply to join these closed Facebook groups, which are administered by our Branches. You will be warmly welcomed and can also get help with identification.

#### Recording

A kind reminder to keep records of your moth and butterfly sightings:

- species
- number seen
- life stage (eg adult/larva),
- location (grid reference if you can),
- date
- and, if you have one, a confirmatory photo

You can send them in using the <u>iRecord</u> App on your phone (which genereates the location) or as a list (by December) to the County Recorders for <u>Butterflies</u> (scroll down!) and <u>Moths</u>.



Rosy Marsh moth, Borth Bog Dave Grundy

Thank you!

Read more here

### Habitat Management Leaflets Printed

This set of three **specialist leaflets** with advice on how to manage land for threatened butterflies and moths is now also available in a limited supply of paper copies in both English and Welsh.

They are **aimed at land managers/owners** of these special habitats and the **conservation experts** advising them.

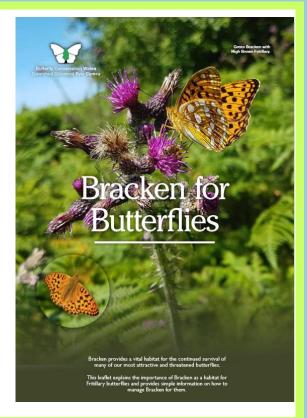
<u>Daear Noeth</u>
<u>Rhedyn i Löynnod Byw</u>
Britheg y Gors

Bare Ground for Butterflies and Moths
Bracken for Butterflies
Marsh Fritillary – Managing grassland

To order, please email <a href="www.weighauterfly-conservation.org">with your postal address and position, saying how many you need - stocks are limited.</a>

Find all Wales leaflets here





## **Frits About Update 2022**

Richard Smith writes:

Resourcing for Frits About is in abeyance at the moment.

Meanwhile there have been a few reports of basking Marsh Fritillary larvae at sites in South Wales and Pearl-bordered Fritillary reported on the wing in Ceredigion (4 last week) and Montgomeryshire (1 this week). It is hoped that volunteers can be organised to monitor Marsh Fritillary and other Frits in early summer.



High Brown Fritillary: Richard Smith

#### Thanks to the following for supplying their photos:

High Brown Fritillary on Thistle (title bar): Ben Williams; Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Eyarth:Tom Knight Marsh Fritillary: George Tordoff; Mower: Phil Sterling. Other details are in text above

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England and Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)
Mae Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw yn elusen wedi'i chofrestru yng Nghymru a Lloegr (254937) ac yn Yr Alban (SCO39268)
Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru, (Stafell Wallace), Llanarthne, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA32 8HG
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